

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 077941  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY INR:HHTAUNDERS:HE  
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON  
S - AHOUGHTON  
S/S RCASTRODALE  
RCASTRODALE

-----001729 261714Z /46

O 261700Z MAR 78 ZFF6  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 077941

NODIS  
CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, EG, IS, US, XF

SUBJECT: GHORBAL MEETING WITH SECRETARY MARCH 25

1. GHORBAL CALLED ON SECRETARY FOR 45 MINUTES SATURDAY MORNING TO BRIEF HIMSELF ON WHERE MATTERS STAND FOLLOWING THE BEGIN VISIT PRIOR TO HIS OWN RETURN TO CAIRO FOR CONSULTATIONS. HE EXPLAINED BEFORE THE MEETING THAT HE HAD AGREED WITH KAMEL AT THE TIME OF THE SADAT VISIT TO WASHINGTON THAT HE WOULD RETURN ON CONSULTATIONS AFTER THE BEGIN VISIT. FOLLOWING EXCHANGE ON SADAT'S LATEST OCTOBER MAGAZINE INTERVIEW REPORTED SEPTEL, CONVERSATION TURNED TO STATE OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. SECRETARY SAID WE ARE MOVING ALONG EXACTLY ON THE SCHEDULE DISCUSSED AT CAMP DAVID. OUR VIEW IS THAT WE OUGHT NOW TO LET THE DEBATE  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 077941

PROCEED IN ISRAEL WHILE LOOKING TOWARD A STATEMENT OF OUR OWN POSITION AFTER THE MIDDLE OF APRIL. THE EXACT TIMING WILL HAVE TO BE LOOKED AT IN THE CONTEXT OF CIRCUMSTANCES AT THAT TIME. GHORBAL NOTED THAT WOULD BE JUST ABOUT THE TIME THE AIRCRAFT PACKAGE WOULD BE GOING TO CONGRESS.

2. THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESIDENT, IN BRIEFING

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY HAD DESCRIBED TO THEM A NUMBER OF THE SUGGESTIONS WHICH HE HAD PUT TO BEGIN IN ORDER TO SHARPEN HIS UNDERSTANDING OF

THE ISRAELI POSITION. WE HAD NOT PUT FORWARD AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL BUT HAD RATHER TRIED OUT A NUMBER OF IDEAS, WITH WHICH BEGIN HAD NOT REPEAT NOT AGREED. SECRETARY REPORTED TO GHORBAL THAT A NUMBER OF SENATORS, INCLUDING SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL, HAD REACTED POSITIVELY TO THESE IDEAS.

3. WHEN GHORBAL PROBED FOR DESCRIPTION OF THESE IDEAS, SECRETARY SAID THEY WERE THE SAME ONES THE PRESIDENT HAD DISCUSSED WITH SADAT AT CAMP DAVID, BASED ON THE ASSUMPTIONS THAT THERE WOULD BE NEITHER AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE NOR TOTAL WITHDRAWAL TO THE PRE-JUNE 1967 ARMISTICE LINE ON THE WEST BANK. SECRETARY AUTHORIZED ATHERTON AND SAUNDERS TO REVIEW THESE WITH GHORBAL. IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, ATHERTON, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY PIECE OF PAPER, DESCRIBED OUR APPROACH TO THE WEST BANK AND GAZA ISSUES ALONG THE LINES OF THE POINTS OUTLINED IN THE CAMP DAVID DISCUSSIONS. ATHERTON SAID IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE MORE PRECISE PROPOSAL FROM GOE FOR WEST BANK/GAZA INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS THAN THAT GIVEN HIM DURING LAST VISIT TO CAIRO BEFORE U.S. PUTS FORWARD FORMAL PROPOSAL OF ITS  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 077941

OWN.

4. SECRETARY CONCLUDED THIS PART OF THE DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT THE MESSAGE GHORBAL SHOULD CARRY TO SADAT IS THAT EVERYTHING IS PROCEEDING ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE-- IF ANYTHING ACCELERATED SOMEWHAT BECAUSE WE HAVE ALREADY BRIEFED MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS EXTENSIVELY ON THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR IDEAS AND THESE ARE LEAKING TO THE PRESS AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO LEAK IN ISRAEL. GHORBAL COULD SAY THAT THE INITIAL REACTION HERE TO THESE IDEAS HAS BEEN POSITIVE, ALTHOUGH THAT COULD CHANGE WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME. ATHERTON ADDED THE IMPORTANCE OF EGYPT'S CONTRIBUTING TO THE PRESENT POSITIVE MOMENTUM. WE APPRECIATE SADAT'S PATIENCE TO DATE. SECRETARY ADDED THAT IT IS NOW PAYING OFF.

5. GHORBAL AGREED THAT WE SHOULD NOW ALLOW THE DEBATE IN ISRAEL TO PROCEED. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT DISTRACT US FROM THE MAIN ISSUES. SECRETARY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT ISRAEL'S OPERATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON HAD NOT CONTRIBUTED FURTHER SUPPORT TO ISRAEL'S POSITION BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

HE HOPED THAT IN THE LONG RUN, HOWEVER, A MORE STABLE LEBANON MIGHT EMERGE. HE NOTED THAT SARKIS MIGHT BE HELPED AS HIS GOVERNMENT EXTENDS IT AUTHORITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON BECAUSE, AS HAD EARLIER TOLD THE SECRETARY, HE

NEEDED STABILITY IN THE SOUTH IN ORDER TO BUILD A NEW NATIONAL POLITICAL CONSENSUS.

6. ATHERTON NOTED THAT TWO CURRENT TRENDS IN THE EGYPTIAN PRESS ARE DISTURBING. ON THE PEACE PROCESS, THERE ARE NOW REPORTS OF EGYPTIAN PRESS COMMENT SETTING A DEADLINE FOR THE CONCLUSION OF THE PEACE TALKS. SECOND, SOME EGYPTIAN COMMENTARIES ARE TAUNTING ASSAD FOR NOT GOING TO THE HELP OF THE PALESTINIANS. HE  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 077941

FELT IT IMPORTANT TO STOP SUCH COMMENTARY SO THAT THOSE WITH MODERATE TENDENCIES BOTH IN ISRAEL AND IN SYRIA COULD WORK WITHOUT THE ADDITIONAL POLITICAL PRESSURES THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY SUCH COMMENT.

7. DISCUSSION TURNED TO THE AIRCRAFT PACKAGE, AND THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE SENT TO THE CONGRESS AROUND APRIL 20 OR A BIT AFTER. GHORBAL NOTED THAT SAID MAREI WAS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON AROUND APRIL 24 AND ASKED WHETHER WE THOUGHT THIS VISIT SHOULD PROCEED. SECRETARY SAID HE THOUGHT IT SHOULD AND NOTED THAT GAMASY IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO COME TOWARD THE END OF APRIL AND SIMILARLY NOTED HIS VIEW THAT THIS VISIT SHOULD PROCEED. FYI. DEFENSE HAS ASKED OUR VIEWS WHETHER INVITATION SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO GAMASY FOR VISIT ABOUT THAT TIME. ATHERTON HAS CONVEYED SECRETARY VANCE'S VIEWS TO THE PENTAGON ALONG THE LINES OF THE ABOVE. END FYI. POINT WAS MADE TO GHORBAL THAT HE SHOULD EXPLAIN TO THESE VISITORS THE ISSUES THAT HAVE ARISEN HERE DURING THE DEBATE SO FAR ON THE AIRCRAFT PACKAGE.

8. TURNING BACK TO SOUTHERN LEBANON, GHORBAL REPORTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM A PALESTINIAN HERE A MESSAGE FROM ARAFAT TO CARRY TO SADAT. HE SAID THE PLO ARE NERVOUS THAT SADAT HAS NOT MENTIONED THEM IN RECENT DAYS. THE HEART OF THE MESSAGE CITED ARAFAT'S FEELING OF CLOSENESS TO SADAT AND HIS DESIRE THAT SADAT SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE ABOUT THE PLO. AT THIS POINT, GHORBAL VOICED HIS SUPPORT FOR RENEWING THE PROPOSAL FOR A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. ALL THREE OF US EXPLAINED WHY WE THOUGHT IT WOULD MAKE THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA MORE DIFFICULT  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 077941

IF A NEW PALESTINIAN GROUP WERE SET UP TO RIVAL LEADERSHIP WHICH WE HOPE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WOULD BRING FORTH IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. WE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IDEA OF PALESTINIANS PRESENTING THEMSELVES WITH SOME NEW FACE HAS MERIT, BUT WE THOUGHT ANYTHING NEW SHOULD BE BASED IN THE AREAS WHERE NEGOTIATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE RATHER THAN OUTSIDE. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PEACE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, BRIEFING MATERIALS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 03/26/78  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE077941  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** HHSAUNDERS:HE  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** P840176-1329  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780324/aaaaatww.tel  
**Line Count:** 182  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** dbcb12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 aug 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3200279  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GHORBAL MEETING WITH SECRETARY MARCHE 25  
**TAGS:** CVIS, PEPR, PBOR, EG, IS, US, XF, LE, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (MAGHERJSAN, OCTAVIAN), (BEGIN, MENACHEM), (GHORBAL)  
**To:** CAIRO TEL AVIV  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/dbcb12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014